

146 Wenzel (H. P.)

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NEW REMEDIES.

REPORT TO THE

Wisconsin State Medical Society.

BY

HENRY P. WENZEL, M. D. OF LOMIRA,

Chairman of Committee.

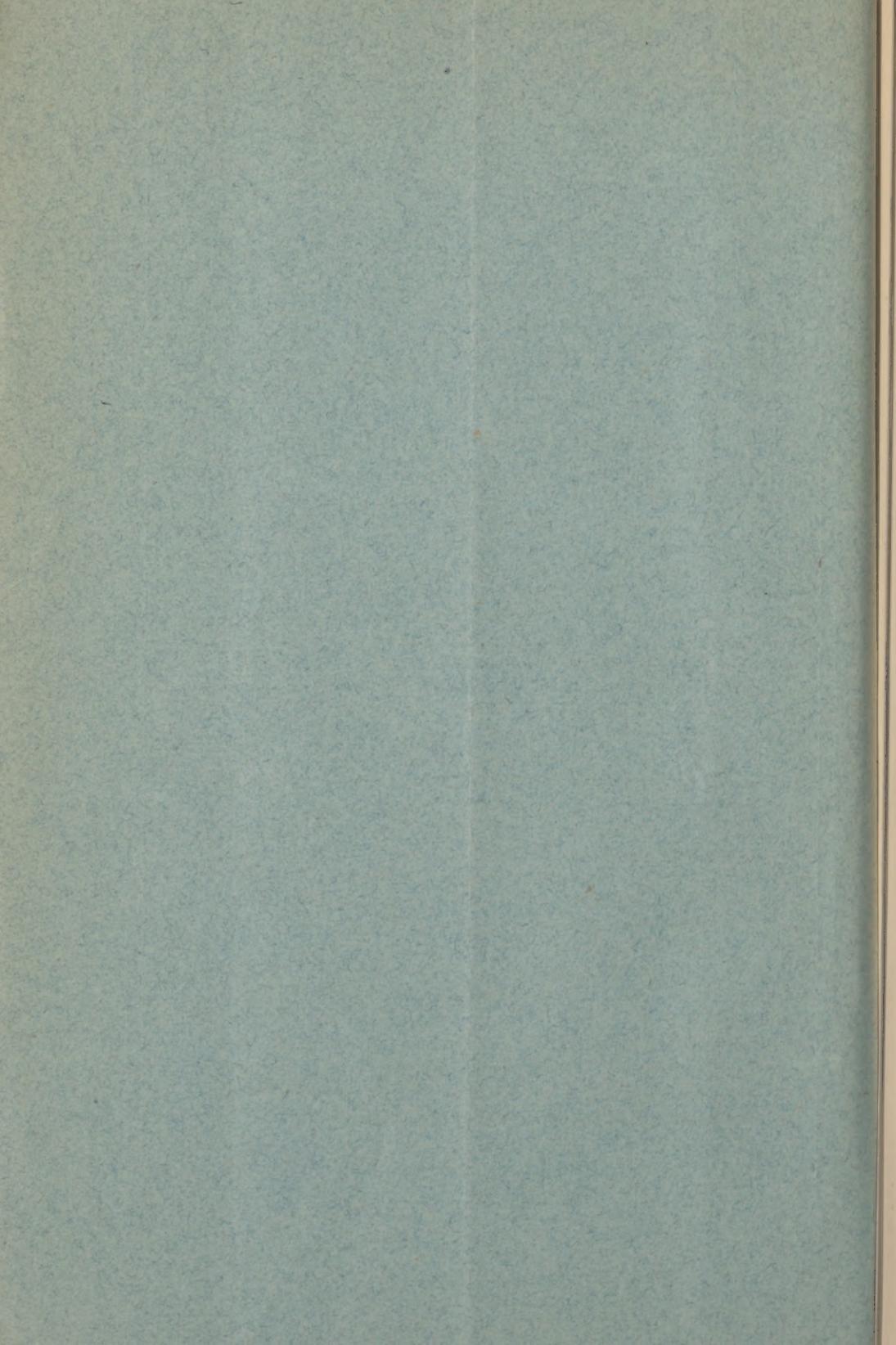


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NEW REMEDIES.

REPORTED BY HENRY P. WENZEL, M. D., OF LOMIRA, CHAIRMAN OF THE
COMMITTEE.

"Prüfet Alles und das Beste behaltet."

Inflation in therapeutics is apt to be followed by a crash, and the repudiation of most new remedies "first introduced by us," or "first originated with us," will be the final outcome. The introduction of new remedies by manufacturers, and their recommendation by physicians, run riot; each attempts to outwit the other in getting up high-sounding names for plants whose habitat remains a mystery and their therapeutic value a sealed book. It is to be regretted that this idea, born out of time, has fastened its oily fangs on the medical profession. Some of the preparations lately introduced will prove useful agents in therapeusis; many will be assigned to the shelf. Scarcely has one new drug made its appearance, when dozens of other valuable (?) remedies, from every quarter, of every conceivable name, are heralded as an arcana for all diseases, bewildering the conscientious practitioner, to the detriment of the sick. We protest against this evanescent infatuation. No practitioner should be a cat's-paw for the manufacturer's chestnuts.

Many old remedies have acquired new therapeutical uses, and some new remedies have already established their value in the treatment of disease. Of the latter, chrysophanic acid, in skin diseases; thymol, in wounds; mistletoe, in parturition; iodoform, in various diseases; the oleates (especially of mercury), in eye diseases;* cosmoline, for internal and external use. Of the former, sodium bicarbonate, in burns; iodine, in malarial and typhoid fevers; bromine, in cancer; ergot, in diabetes and spinal lesions,—are typical examples of improvement in our armamentarium medicinæ.

It is impossible to notice all the new elixirs, syrups, pills, and a host of other preparations, whether they are "copyrighted" or not. Granules of various colors, and parvules of different composition, have taken their

* Dr. M. Landesberg, Reprint from Klin. Mon.-Bl. f. Aug. Hlkde, Sept., 1873.

places with time-honored pills. Granulating effervescent salts of many combinations are useful and palatable articles, and deserve a larger and wider range of usefulness. Case: Mrs. E., primiparæ, aged twenty-six, was prostrated with the severest symptoms of pregnancy. Every known remedy was tried in vain. Citrate of bismuth, strychnine and pepsine in teaspoonful doses *ter in die*, relieved her in three days, and she went to term without further trouble.

Some pharmacists are habitually getting up proprietary preparations, and the emulation bestowed on this class of drugs deserves of a better cause. It is a new way of flooding the country, hereafter, with another variety of nostrums detrimental to the physician and injurious to the sick. The medical profession should countenance no remedy, of whatever form or consistency, whose habitat, mode of preparation and composition is clothed in mystery.

Fanciful names should be discarded in all preparations, and only the officinal or most common name should be applied. Any substance that is not worth labeling well or being properly designated, should be destroyed. "Label or burn"!*

Many of the fluid extracts are not of officinal strength, and some even are inferior to the officinal tinctures of the Pharmacopœia. Out of sixteen specimens examined (fl. ex. canab. indic.) only two deserve the name of fluid extract; the remainder were inferior articles; six did not contain sufficient extract for the officinal tincture;† so with many others. All fluid extracts should be prepared from good, pure, crude drugs by the most improved methods of repercolation,‡ and should be of full strength. This is the stumbling-block of so many failures; and heartless manufacturers are the evil fountain of the cause of failure.

"The first step in remedying this evil must be to hold pharmacy to accountability and reliability, by making it a part of the medical profession. It must be a specialty, like every other medical specialty, having its foundation in a thorough medical education. It must, like Ophthalmology and Gynaecology, be made a specialty, only because it may not be practicable for each practitioner to attend to every department of medicine, and in order that by giving more time for study, greater accuracy may thereby be obtained."||

We cannot present laboratory details nor the results derived from experiments made on animals. In a majority of instances they may be fallacious, frequently worse than useless. We should not rush to the bedside with the idea that these so tested (on animals) remedies are a

* Mich. State Board Health Reports, Vol. V., p. 23, et seq.

† Chicago Pharmacist, April, 1878.

‡ Repercolation, by E. R. Squibb, M. D., Reprint, 1878.

|| Trans. Int. Med. Cong. 1876, p. 1075, et seq.

panacea for all ills, but that the best may fail in a crucial test. We need clinical facts. Drugs taken by man in health frequently have a different action than when given in disease; if this is false, Hahnemann's views are correct, and *similia similibus* is a fact.

Before closing our prefatory remarks, it is necessary to state that few drugs now escape the hands of the adulterator. Marble-dust and soot are sold for black antimony,* and a New York firm manufactures three grades of tremor tartari, the best of which, according to a Boston chemist, contains about fifty per cent. of terra alba,† worth half a cent per pound. The only way to correct this evil, and to protect ourselves as well as those entrusted to our care, is to buy only of reliable dealers, and to test every remedy for its purity. Much of this wholesale swindling in the drug trade could be abolished by physicians purchasing and dispensing their own remedies, instead of allowing shysters in the drug trade to prostitute prescriptions by adulterated or useless articles, or by substitution, as so many are in the habit of doing.

I. BROMINE.

Bromine has lately been extensively used as a cauterant in cancer, with good success. The following reasons are given: 1. It produces a cure (if not permanent) of cancerous tumors with less loss of substance than the knife or actual cautery. 2. This treatment can be better applied to the uterus than the knife or burning iron. 3. The scarification produces but little hemorrhage. 4. The peritoneum can be touched without fear of grave inflammation, in which Simon coincides.‡

II. POTASSIUM BROMIDE,

Combined with glycerine, has been used in many diseases, for local spasms, pruritus, etc., by Ferrand and Guineau de Mussey with success. Epithelioma of the face was cured in twenty days by the daily application of the medicine in powder. Good results were also obtained in chronic ulcers of the lower extremities; in eczema chronicum, pityasis and acne; in stomatitis and phagedenic ulcers; in epistaxis, hæmoptysis and menorrhagia it was found to be successful after ergot, perchloride of iron and rhatany had failed.||

III. ANTIDOTE TO OPIUM POISONING.

Scalding hot water has been successfully used in cases of opium poisoning, by Dr. Wm. Selden. He plunges the feet into a tub or pail

* Chicago Pharmacist, February, 1879.

† Medical and Surgical Reporter, Vol. XL., p. 369.

‡ Giornale della Accademia de Torino.

|| Va. Med. Monthly, Vol. V, p. 596, from Le Monitor Therapeutique.

full of scalding water, and keeps them there until reaction takes place, which soon occurs. By this means he has saved patients from apparent death where all other treatment proved inadequate. He has also treated whisky stupor or alcoholism with benefit, by this process.*

This remedy was spoken of, and stress laid on its use, by Henry Howard, M. D., in 1845.† He says: Pouring water occasionally into his ears, shaking, and applying hot water to his legs, to excite pain. . . . Place the feet in very warm water, and pass a sponge dipped in the same, as hot as the hand can bear, over the shoulders, back and chest, . . . dashing cold water in the face," etc.

No doubt this mode of treatment would be beneficial in stupor and comatose or semi-comatose conditions, in excessive hyperæmia or in congestion of the brain. This powerful revulsive is cheap, and to be had everywhere.

IV. IODINE.

Tr. Iodini was used in ague more than five years ago,‡ and Napheys called attention to the drug in 1871.|| Nowadnitschauski has used iodine extensively with eminent success.§ When the fever is broken the dose should be continued at longer intervals. Iodine is equal to quinine, and there is no danger of cumulative effect. It is promptly excreted by the kidneys and salivary glands. My friend, Prof. Ford, made extensive use of iodine in malarial diseases. It breaks up chills which quinine failed to avert. It does not derange the stomach, but improves the appetite from the first.¶ Dr. Grinnel of Wichita Agency, and Dr. Irving W. Smith use tr. iodine extensively among the whites and Indians with perfect success, combined with opiates or astringents, when the latter are indicated. The latter sums up: "I have been astonished and delighted with the results. One hundred and forty-seven cases—one hundred and thirty-five of intermittent, four of malarial diarrhoea, eight of malarial neuralgia—some were children—have thus far been treated with iodine, and the results have been fully equal to those treated with the sulphate of quinine." **

The Reporter has used tr. iodine in typhoid fever, with happy results, in the third stage of the disease, when the salts of Bark failed to influence the disease,—temperature, $106\frac{1}{2}$ ° F., subsultus, etc.,—and brought down the temperature in two days to 99° F., and kept it there until con-

* Va. Med. Monthly, Vol. V. p. 578, et seq.

† Outlines of Medical Jurisprudence, by Henry Howard, M. D., 1845.

‡ Med. and Surgical Reporter, Jan., 1874.

|| Napheys' Therapeutics.

§ St. Petersburger Medizinische Wochenschrift.

¶ Private communication.

** Louisville Medical News, vol. VI, p. 212.

valescence was established. There were no sequelæ. We obtained good results, also, in chronic gastric lesions, and in suppressed menstruation due to deficient blood, etc.

Goss* recommends iodine in carbuncles, boils and bone felons; if used early it will cause the boil or carbuncle to shrink away. R. tr. iodini ʒij; tr. arnica, sp. tr. aconiti, tr. cantharides, aa ʒij M.; locally applied in incipient felon removes the pain speedily; if matter has formed it will be drawn to the surface, and cutting down on the bone is avoided.

We usually direct equal parts of tr. iodini and syrup simple to be thoroughly mixed, and from fifteen to thirty drops be administered to adults, in milk, thrice daily; children less.

V. SODIUM SULPHO-CARBOLATE.

This salt has been used with varying success in scarlatina, measles, small pox; and in diphtheria its use has been followed with gratifying results. Risgen gave it to twenty children at the inception of the disease—scarlatina—and thirteen escaped altogether. Of eighteen cases treated one only died, in spasms, on the second day. Loomis, of Cascade, Wis., says: "I have used sulpho-carbolate of soda in the scarlet fever epidemic in 1876-7, and treated one hundred and seventy-five cases, in all of which I used the salt. I lost about ten per cent.; this percentage could have been reduced had all cases been seen sufficiently early. I have great faith in the drug as a remedy, and believe that it will cut short or modify the disease. Sulpho-carbolate of soda is a wonderful remedy. Usually give ten grains every three hours to adults; children proportionately less."†

Woodbury says it modifies and eliminates the specific poison in rubeola, variola, scarlatina markedly, thus averting the disease from vital organs. It is an anti-zymotic, and will possibly be found to influence the yellow fever poison before black vomit can take place, or ward off the dangerous second stage altogether.‡

We have used sodium sulpho-carbolate in an epidemic of diphtheria with very gratifying results. A large number of cases were treated. There were only three deaths; one was moribund when seen; the second was wilfully neglected to try a floating newspaper prescription.|| Quinine may be added when indicated.

There are those who persist that to kill the poison germs (probably bacteriaæ or vibrios) in the blood, would require enough of the salt to kill the patient. We do not claim that the remedy will cure every case, nor

*Louisville Medical News, vol. V., p. 23².

†Private communication.

‡Virginia Medical Monthly, vol. V., p. 462.

||Virginia Medical Monthly, June number, 1878.

that it is a specific in the true sense of the word. But on one side we have carefully observed clinical facts, on the other side theoretical argument and hypothesis, which have been sanctioned by few pathologists and scarcely any clinical teachers. This subject cannot be definitely settled until we have positive, incontrovertible proofs that the diphtheritic poison germ is in or carried by these microscopic animalculeæ; or that they only appear as scavengers in the blood, or at the seat of diphtheritic deposits, after the system is infected by poison germs from other sources.

VI. PILOCARPINE.

This alkaloid was discovered by Hardy in 1875, in *pilocarpus pinnafolius*. It is a sure remedy where the leaves or fluid extract fail. It is antagonistic to atropia. It acts on the peripheral ends of the vagi, exciting the inhibitory nerves of the heart.* It is a powerful sialagogue and diaphoretic. The muriate of pilocarpine has induced abortion when exhibited during pregnancy for psoriasis, syphilis, etc., and the drug may prove useful in inducing premature labor.†

Manzomineur

Edema of nephritic troubles and swelling, following bronchial catarrh, disappeared after injecting a solution of the muriate hypodermically, and ~~M.~~ two cases of dropsy were relieved, but aborted after its use. Pilocarpine has been beneficial in Bright's disease,‡ and Strognowski§ quieted an eclamptic patient by a two-per-cent. solution, after morphia failed. Barker§ claims that its therapeutic value in puerperal albuminaria or convulsions is doubtful.

Schauta¶ used pilocarpine hypodermically to induce premature labor in cases of contracted pelvis. He injected a Pravaz syringe full of a two-per-cent. solution of the muriate into the left thigh, at 3:23 P. M. After four minutes, there was dilatation of the pupils (locally applied, or internally administered, pilocarpine contracts the pupil, but hypodermically used, dilates the pupil; a strange behavior) nausea, sweating of the face, flowing of saliva, sweetish taste in the mouth, trembling of the lower limbs; the temperature remained at 36.8° C, the pulse rose from 68 to nearly 100, and the respiration advanced from 24 to 40. About three hours later, pains were felt, and the cervical canal was dilated. Another injection was given at 10:07 P. M., and at 8:30 A. M. next day a living child was born. The membranes were spontaneously expelled twenty minutes later. Six days afterwards, mother and child were doing well.

* Herr A. Fränkel, Charite Annalen Band III, 1878.

† Monthly Abstract.

‡ Va. Med. Monthly, Vol. VI, p. 68.

§ Centralbl. f. Gynäkologie, 1878, No. 20.

¶ Med. Record, March 1, 1879.

|| Am. Jour. Med. Science, 1878, p. 579.

Zielewicz has reduced the temperature 2, $2\frac{1}{3}$ and 3 degrees by the use of pilocarpine. A small quantity of morphia added remedies the untoward symptoms of pilocarpine.* Alexandroff† used the solution in cases of rheumato-iridio-choroiditis with cloudiness of the media of the eye; a few injections of two centigrammes of a solution of the muriate of pilocarpine, not only allayed the pain, but cleared up the media as well, avoiding iridectomy. And he thinks it will prove useful in other serous or plastic exudations from local or general disease.

VII. UNGUENTUM PETROLEI.

This substance is obtained from crude petroleum by fractional distillation. It is a compound of olefines and paraffines, and is an oleaginous hydrocarbon of the formula $C^{16} H^{34}$ and $C^{16} H^{32}$, and a small percentage of those lighter than $C^7 H^{16}$ and $C^7 H^{14}$. It is unaffected at ordinary temperatures by SO_4 ; sp. gr. 1791. If a large per cent. of the olefines are present, sulphuric acid will discolor them, and gives the product a dark appearance. This is not a sign of impurity, but the olefines are wholesome agents for therapeutic applications. (Cresson, Cannstatt, Redwood.)

Cosmoline, or *unguent. petrolei*, is of a clear yellowish color, greasy and adhesive; has no decided odor or taste; melts at $38^\circ C.$, and boils at $329^\circ C.$; the sp. gr. at $60^\circ F.$ being 0.875, being heavier than alcohol and lighter than water. It is free from and insoluble in water, slightly soluble in rectified spirits, very soluble in ether, fixed oils and fats. It may be kept for any length of time without rancidity, and climatic changes have no effect upon it; cannot be oxidized; hence its utility in officinal unguenta and cerata.‡ It is one of the blandest substances known, and may be used when other preparations are inadmissible.

The uses of *unguent. petrol.* are manifold. A thin coating applied over surgical instruments keeps them smooth and free from rust. For anointing purposes it is superior to oil or lard. The instruments and hands should always be anointed with cosmoline before introducing them into the vagina, uterus, or other cavities of the body. Cosmoline is not influenced by the secretions.

Has been recommended internally in inflammatory conditions of the stomach and bowels, found useful in cystitis, in uterine lesions and vaginal complications. *Unguent. petrol.* is antiseptic, and a valuable dressing to wounds of all descriptions, and in burns. We have used the remedy, simple and in various combinations, for several years, in a large

*Hospital Gazette.

†Pamphlet, Marseilles, 1878.

‡Virginia Medical Monthly, vol. IV, p. 186 et seq.

variety of cases, with eminent success. In chronic ulcers on indurated bases it is a very valuable remedy. Has been successfully used in acute and chronic eczema* (Rohe), ichthyosis,† in various diseases of the scalp, and in chapped hands. At the Hopital St. Louis it is largely used in ophthalmic surgery,‡ being well borne by the conjunctiva. May be used as a hair dressing, being made into a pomadum with other remedies, and flavored *ad libitum*.

VIII. CHRYSOPHANIC ACID.

This acid was first obtained by Schraeder (1819) from common lichen; was obtained pure by Rochleder and Held (1843), and soon after discovered in and prepared from Moscow and China rheubarb by Schlossberger and Depping (1844). Balmanno Squire introduced it into practice a few years ago. Its formula is $C^{20}, O^6, H^8,$ || and forms deep-red solutions with the alkalies, and a red substance with warmed sulphuric and nitric acids, which is soluble in ammonia, giving a violet color.

Goa powder, Bahia powder or Araroba powder was first introduced by Frayser, of Calcutta, in 1874.§ It contains eighty-five per cent. chrysophanic acid.¶ Goa powder was first used successfully by Dr. Theobald Ringer in an inveterate case of psoriasis, which had resisted all treatment for a year and a half.**

Most of the chrysophanic acid used at present is prepared from Goa powder. Some of the Rumex family also contain appreciable quantities of the acid. The acid is of a yellowish color, odorless, tasteless, and may be separated into chrysarobin and chrysophanin;†† the latter causes vomiting, the former purgation. We placed several grains of the acid into a test tube, sealed it, and applied heat by a spirit lamp; there were slight detonations, and then the acid liquefied and assumed a mahogany color; the lower part of the tube gradually cleared up, while a greenish-brown smoke filled the upper part of the tube. When the tube had cooled off, it was fractured. Very light, beautiful, feathery, light-brownish crystals, of velvety softness, were deposited around the interior of the tube.

Chrysophanic acid has been recommended and used successfully in lupus, herpes tonsurans, pityriasis versicolor, psoriasis, eczema,†† and is especially useful in chronic dermal lesions. Prof. Neumann of Vienna regards it as the most valuable of all our remedies in our cutaneous

*N. Y. Medical Journal, June, 1877.

†Archives of Dermatology, July, 1877.

‡L' Union Medicale.

||King's Dispensatory, p. 704.

§Wiener Medizinische Presse, No. 14-16, 1878.

¶Attfield.

**Indian Medical Gazette.

††Schroff, J. Ashburton Thompson.

††Gardner in Brit. Med. Jour.

materia medica.* The diseased parts should be cleared of the scales and *debris*, and the ointment applied with a brush or rag. The mahogany-stained skin peels off in large flakes after a few days, and the healthy skin appears beneath.

The objections to its use are, that it stains linen purple,† gives the skin a mahogany color, and colors the hair. Sometimes it produces pain and an erythematous rash at the place of application. Patients must avoid getting it into their eyes. Squire says a small quantity of benzol added to the ointment, will counteract the noxious properties.‡

The ointment may be prepared of different strength, by dissolving the acid in boiling fat, etc., and well rubbed in a mortar until cold,|| to break up the hard crystals and prevent grittiness.§ *Unguent. petrol.* is a superior solvent.

Dr. Charteris applied the ointment to half the body, and the whole body was cured.¶ My friend, the late Dr. Lueck, successfully treated a case of psoriasis palmarum (with one-half drachm acid to the ounce of vehicle) which had resisted all other treatment for years. Mr. A. Sangster used the ointment beneficially (5 gr. to the ounce) where arsenic was not tolerated.** Da Costa treated chronic psoriasis with eminent success,†† and Neumann prefers it to all other remedies in this disease. A case of psoriasis of twenty-seven years' standing was treated by phosphorus pearls internally, and chrysophanic acid ointment locally (3ii to the ounce). The patient was cured in one month.†† The acid has almost become a specific in chronic psoriasis, and cases are everywhere treated successfully.

IX. IODOFORM.

Iodoform, also called teriodide of formyl, was discovered by Serullas (1822), and introduced into practice by Dr. M. Glover of London, and M. Bouchardat of Paris (1837). It was almost entirely ignored by the scientific world, notwithstanding the encomiums of Pick, Demarquay, Voelker, Nunn, Kennedy, Hamilton, and others. It was scarcely mentioned in the text-books, and the clinics and hospitals did not use it at all.

Lessing says: "This preparation belongs to a more recent time, and needs closer examination."|| Nothnagel writes: "The use of iodoform has been recommended in neuralgia, painful tumors, etc., with much

* Wiener Medizinische Presse.

† Med. and Surg. Reporter, Vol. XXXVIII., p. 32.

‡ London Lancet.

§ A. W. Postans, Mr. Gerard.

|| Va. Med. Monthly, Vol. VI., p. 140.

¶ Louisville Med. News, Vol. VI., p. 81.

** London Lancet.

†† Medical and Surgical Reporter, Vol. XXXVIII., p. 146.

†† Va. Med. Monthly, Vol. V., p. 595.

|| Materia Medica, Berlin, 1863.

benefit."* Binz† carefully described the drug, presented it in its true light, and attracted professional attention. It is but briefly touched by American authors, and only one essay on the subject came to my notice in the medical journals.‡

Since J. Moleschott || of Turin has presented an incontrovertible array of facts, gathered by careful physiological and clinical experiments, in its favor, the drug is now quite freely used. He says, iodoform unites antiphlogistic, dissolving, resorbent, resolvent, and anaesthetic properties, and is of therapeutic use from neuritis to neuralgia; from leucæmia to meningitis tuberculosa; from lymphatic glandular tumors to effusions in serous sacks; from attacks of gout to hygroma.

He effected many cures in chronic glandular enlargements, in chronic joint troubles and diseases of bone tissue. In bone diseases with fungus-flesh—some were considered cases for amputation—and the application of collodionized iodoform or iodoform ointment (1-15) not only stopped the pain, but relieved or cured the patient. In enlarged spleen the pain was reduced, the size of the organ diminished, the appetite improved and the proportion of red-blood discs were raised to the normal standard. Iodoform stands first in leucæmia. In orchitis it produced cures within a week. In pulmonary tuberculosis, with ascitis, the application of the collodionized iodoform caused the fluid to disappear in fifteen days. It has been successfully used in effusions of the pleura, pericardium, peritoneum, and beneath the arachnoid. Paracentesis is advised only after iodoform has failed, which it seldom does. Moleschott had excellent success in acute hydrocephalus in children, and reports three complete cures out of five cases, in this generally fatal disease. In chronic rheumatism it is of much value, but nearly useless in the acute articular form.

Zeissel obtained favorable results from iodoform in venereal sores.§ Has been given with good results in syphilis.

Landesberg, of Philadelphia, has made extensive use of iodoform in ocular diseases, with eminent success in neuro-retinitis-descendens, and says: "I think I am fully justified in attributing this remarkable result of *restitutio ad integrum* in such a hopeless case solely to the rapid and vigorous action of iodoform."¶

We have used iodoform in ocular diseases with satisfactory results. In uterine colic the patient was permanently relieved by the internal use of iodoform after all other remedies failed; in general depression and

*Handbuch der Arzneimittellehre, 1878.

†Grundzuge der Arzneimittellehre, 1874.

‡Medical and Surgical Reporter, Vol. XXXIX., p. 374 et seq.

||Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift, Nos. 24, 25, 26, 1878.

§He uses it combined with sugar-of-milk locally, and with white sugar internally. Wiener Medizin. Wochenschrift, No. 21. 1878.

• Medical and Surgical Reporter, vol. XXXIX, p. 375.

menstrual inactivity with happy results. In a case of cancer of the stomach, with its concomitant symptoms,—coffee-ground vomiting, lancinating pains, insomnia, anorexia, and a well-defined tumor in the anterior wall,—iodoform ameliorated the pain, stopped the vomiting, produced sleep and appetite, changed the color of the face to a more natural hue, and after two months use the tumor is considerably reduced.

Iodoform is best administered internally in pill form, adding a small quantity of some of the essential oils to disguise the rather unpleasant odor. Ether perfectly disguises the odor for a short time. For local use it may be made into an ointment (1-15) or dissolved in collodion and applied with a brush. The dose internally is from one to three grains thrice daily. In large doses it proves fatal, tetanus generally occurring; but there are no internal lesions. Its internal use is sometimes followed by palpitation, eructations and nausea. Iodine is usually detected in the urine after iodoform has been used.

X. MISTLETOE.

This American species, *phoradendron flavescens*, is a parasite which grows on oak, maple, poplar, walnut, cherry, and elm trees. That which grows on the oak is generally preferred, but those plants on *ulmus nemo-nalis* and on *quercus aquatica*, are reported to possess the most energetic medicinal properties.* All parts of the plant contain viscin—birdlime. The bark and leaves have an unpleasant odor and a mawkish, bitterish taste. The berries contain viscin, green wax, gum, bassorin, brown extractive, lignin, salts of potassa, lime, magnesia, and oxide of iron, united to vegetable acids. (Henry.)

Medical properties: narcotic, antispasmodic, tonic. Has been used and found beneficial in epilepsy, insanity, paralysis and other nervous diseases.† W. H. Long, M. D., has used it for many years as an oxytoxic and prefers it to ergot, which cannot be given in every stage of labor, in uterine hemorrhage and metorrhagia.‡ There are less after-pains than after the use of ergot. He uses the infusion of the bark (bark 3 ij, water oss., dose, half teacupful) or the tincture.||

We have used a fluid extract prepared by Messrs. Hazard, Caswell & Co., of New York, in parturition, and are satisfied that its *clinic oxytoxic action is a desideratum in labor; the pains become more energetic; between the pains there is a respite to the patient, she gathers more strength for the next pain, and labor is expedited; there is no danger to the child. Ergot produces tonic contractions; there is no intermission of pains; no repose*

* King's Dispensatory, p. 861; edition 1871.

† l. c.

‡ Louisville Medical News, vol. V, Nos. 11 and 14.

|| Louisville Medical News, vol. V, p. 238.

to the goaded uterus; no rest to the patient; great danger to the life of the child, and sometimes extensive laceration of the perineum, or rupture of the vagina, uterine neck or body, when the contents of the uterus are shot through the passages like a cannon-ball. We use mistletoe altogether in parturition. We have also used it in post-partem hemorrhage, two weeks after delivery, with success. The placenta was delivered entire shortly after the birth of the child. What the cause of, and whence the flow of *red* blood, was difficult to determine. Here, position, warm water and hot water injections, kneading of the uterus, and large doses of ergot, failed.

XI. THYMOL.

This stearopton, discovered by Lallemand,* is obtained from the oil of thyme, oil of monardæ, and from the oil of *Ptychosis ajowan*. Its formula is $C^{10} H^{14} O^1$, it crystallizes in colorless, nearly transparent, tabular crystals; is neutral to test paper and polarized light; has a peculiar odor, and a pungent, aromatic taste; its sp. gr. is 1.028; it fuses at 45° C, and boils near 230° C. It forms a crystalline compound with soda— $C^{10} H^{13} Na O$ —and is sometimes called thymic acid.† Thymol is soluble in 1000 parts cold, and in 333 parts of warm water, in 995 parts of alcohol; one grain thymol is soluble in 120 grains glycerine and 600 grains water, which forms a clear solution,‡ slightly acid, has a decided odor of thyme, and an aromatic, pungent taste.

Thymol is one of the homologues of carbolic acid, and may be used as a paraciticide and antiseptic, and to cauterize the dental nerves. It is more agreeable than carbolic acid, and may be substituted for the latter in all cases. It is very efficacious dressing to wounds and ulcers, favoring cicatrization.|| The only objection to its use is the sweetish taste, which attracts swarms of flies. (Bardeleben).§

Animals poisoned with thymol sink into profound coma. After death, their blood turns dark and fluid. Fatty degeneration of internal organs has not been observed. Injected into the veins it lowers the temperature and induces stupor.¶

Richard Volkmann of Halle introduced thymol as a substitute for carbolic acid, in external dressings. Ranke concludes, from the treatment of forty-one wounds, that thymol leaves nothing to be desired as to its antiseptic effect, and that it answers better than carbolic-acid dressings; the secretion from the wound is less, the period of healing shorter,

*King's Dispensatory, Ed. 1871, p. 831.

†National Dispensatory, p. 979.

‡Med. News and Library, Vol. XXXVI., p. 82.

||King's Dispensatory, l. c.

§Am. Jour. Med. Science, July, 1878, from London Med. Record.

¶Med. and Surg. Reporter, Vol. XL., p. 17.

the cost of dressings smaller; and that it has no poisonous properties, and eczema did not follow its use.* Dr. R. Crocker and Mr. W. H. Stone have prescribed thymol solution internally in St. Vitus dance, successfully.† Dr. B. Kussner of Halle used a one-per-cent. solution successfully in the diarrhoea of children; dose 3-5 drops. A solution by inhalation was tried in a case of phthisis. The fever was reduced, and the expectoration lessened. Steiner used a one-per-cent. solution in cases of sore nipples, in the wards of Charite Hospital, with gratifying results.

We have used thymol solution successfully in wounds and ulcers, and prefer it to carbolic acid. In many instances, patients cannot bear the odor of carbolic acid, especially in uterine lesions. Thymol has a pleasant odor, and its use leaves nothing to be desired. Have used it altogether, lately, in uterine fissures, abrasions, ulcers, and with most excellent results, destroying the fetor at once, and hastening the repairing process. In a case of complete procedentia uteri, of many years standing, patient aged 72, with the womb hanging between the thighs, covered with scabs, fissures and ulcers, emitting a terribly fetid odor, thymol solution applied destroyed the fetor effectually. The prolapsed organ was reduced and kept in place by a tampon saturated with the solution. The patient could walk, and was completely relieved by the thirty-fifth day.‡

Thymol camphor is a powerful antiseptic, and easier made into ointment than thymol; it is more powerful than carbolic acid. Lately, I have used this solution: R. thymol, G. camphor, hydrate chloral aaʒi, rub in a mortar until liquified, add ʒiv alcohol, and shake in a bottle; now add ʒvi glycerine and ʒxxij water; shake thoroughly. This forms an almost perfect solution, of a milky color, greasy feeling, aromatic odor and pungent taste, neutral, sp. gr. 1.040. The solution may be reduced with water, or glycerine, or both, *ad libitum*, and used in all surgical or gynæcological cases requiring such dressings. It is a preferable solution.||

Conclusions: 1st. Thymol solution cannot be prepared strong enough to cauterize. Thymol in substance (feeble) cauterizes.

2d. Thymol solution destroys fetor instantly and effectually.

3d. Thymol solution leaves the grateful odor of *thymus vulgaris*.

4th. Thymol solution heals wounds and ulcers more rapidly than carbolic acid.

*Volkmann's Series.

†Med. and Surg. Reporter, Vol. XXXVIII, p. 370 et seq.

‡See the Reporter's paper on Procedentia Uteri, in Med. and Surg. Reporter, Vol. XXXVIV., p. 443-6.

||Since writing the above, a similar report has appeared in the Monthly Abstract for May, 1879.

5th. There is no danger of toxic symptoms following the local use of thymol solution, and it is as safe as carbolic acid administered internally.*

XII. FUCUS VESICULOSUS.

This seaweed and its congeners belong to the natural order *algæ* or *fucoidæ*. It contains 0.719 per cent. iodine, and 0.603 per cent. bromine. *F. Serratus* contains 0.834 per cent. iodine and 1.007 per cent. bromine (Marchand).† All seaweeds contain appreciable quantities of iodine and bromine.

There is considerable difference of opinion concerning the therapeutic value of this remedy. Some say that it fattens lean people, others that it reduces fat people. Wilder's case gained four and Cowan's five pounds a week after the use of fucus,‡ and Chapman's lost sixty pounds in a short time. By comparison of the results obtained in the communications received on the subject, it appears that fucus is useless as a remedy for healthy (anti-fat) people. We have used the remedy carefully in cases of obesity and increased the weight in every instance; in one case *two pounds a week, as long as it was used*. The same case *lost four pounds a week* when placed on half-drachm doses of iodide potassium. Our observations have led us to the following conclusions:

1st. Fucus as an anti-fat remedy in healthy adipose tissue is as useless as damiana in loss of virile power.

2d. Fat tissue (healthy) may be increased or diminished by the use of fucus.

3d. Cold, torpid individuals, with cold, clammy skin, pendulous belly—those cases whose obese condition is of an apathetic or morbid condition—may be benefitted by fucus.

4th. The activity of fucus, as a remedy, must depend on its stimulating effects on the lymphatics and emunctories of the system.

Griffith,|| in the interest of some patent nostrum manufacturer, wrote a monograph, and cannot bestow praise enough on his "pet" fucus for "dancing elephants." He says that fucus is a *sure remedy to reduce obesity*, at one place; and that it is *not a specific and may fail altogether*, in another. Inconsistency, thou art a jewel! That it fattens lean people and makes "fat people" fatter caps the climax. During the use of fucus—"anti-fat"—he regulated the "diet, exercise and rest," and we venture

*Medical and Surgical Reporter, I. c.

†Nat. Dispensatory, p. 650-1.

‡New Preparations, vol. II, No. II.

||Corpusculency, etc., by M. M. Griffith, M. D.

the remark that "diet, exercise and rest" were *the* factors in reducing the obesity, and *this was ascribed to fucus*. The pamphlet was not written for the medical profession, but for "dancing elephants," bestowing great praise on an inferior remedy, claiming for it "anti-fat" properties, to gull very uncomfortable fat people, for the sake of filthy lucre. The preparation, as a remedy, deserves its merited oblivion justly; it was tried and found wanting. Fucus is a failure as a fat-reducing remedy, and much inferior to iodine, bromine and their salts. If the diet be well regulated, the exercise properly conducted, and only *very small quantities of liquids drank*, many obese people can reduce themselves to the "symmetry of the gods," without fucus, by "diet, exercise and rest" alone.

